

# Holy Trinity News

www.holytrinitydunoon.co.uk

Spring 2014

## Bishop Kevin Blesses Holy Trinity!

Bishop Kevin was welcomed to Dunoon on Sunday 9th February to commemorate the completion of conservation of the church building (see later article) and renew the licenses of the team of church members who assist in the worshipping life of the church.

Bishop Kevin, accompanied by Elspeth, his wife, brought the original bishop's staff that Bishop Alexander Ewing carried when he consecrated Holy Trinity on the 11th of September 1850.

Bishop Kevin, in his address, held a lit candle and told the congre-

gation that the vulnerable little flame of the candle was a sign of having 'just enough faith' – and as the whole congregation lit their candles, the combined light of all those 'just enough faiths' would shine out from the hilltop to the south of Dunoon for all to see. As the 'lay team' were relicensed, the bishop asked for blessings for all those that served the church. *Cont...*



Photo: C M McIntosh

Bishop Kevin rededicates church and congregation!

*Continued from front page:*

The ministry in Holy Trinity is shared between many people, lay and ordained, a strong, modern pattern of church life.

After this busy Sunday morning, filled with the rededication of the church, renewal of baptismal vows, relicensing of the lay team and joyful Eucharistic worship, the Bishop and congregation shared a lunch in the social space in the back of the church building.

Thank you to all of you for helping to make the occasion possible, with cleaning, flowers, food, joyfully joining in and all the many, many activities that made up the day. The Bishop has written to express his gratitude for the welcome that he and Elspeth received, and he is looking forward to being with us again soon!



Bishop Kevin licenses the lay team

## From the Rector



A warm welcome to this new edition of the Holy Trinity newsletter. We have been experimenting with formats and frequencies of the newsletters, and for the moment, after discussion at vestry, have decided to go back to a simple weekly pewsheet, edited by Di Tennent, and a seasonal newsletter, every two to three months.

The newsletter has plenty of space for articles, information and anything else that may be of interest to the church community, so please submit anything of interest to me. This edition has a mixture of news, reflection and information about services and activities in the charge. Please feed back your thoughts on the

format and content: we want to know what you would like your newsletter to convey about Holy Trinity!

A thought, as we approach the end of one of the wettest winters on record: We have seen the storms and flooding that have battered the south of England and felt the rain that has never seemed to end. Parts of the world have suffered extremes of flooding and climatic conditions that are almost beyond our imagination. Where is God in all this? Most do not believe that God punishes humanity through things like the weather, and we could have a debate about climate change and our stewardship of this planet. But God calls us to prayerful action in response to these crises: to support appeals, to help our local neighbours, to try and be 'greener' in whatever way we can...

## **'Mission Possible'** by Maureen McKellar

15 people attended a very good session of the diocesan initiative "Mission Possible" after the service on Sunday 16 February. We were looking at how Jesus shows us what God's kingdom is like. We looked in small groups at four aspects of the Kingdom:

- Jesus invests in the most unlikely people
- Jesus subverts the ways of the world
- Jesus is a non-anxious person
- Jesus gives up power

For each of these we looked at relevant passages of the Gospels and considered: what challenged us; what excited us; is this how we behave as Christians; have we ever felt included/exclude by Christians; does this image of Jesus make it easier or harder to talk about him?

Jesus invested in people who might be considered unlikely. That took us out of our comfort zone. We found it difficult to

relate the times of Jesus to modern times when looking at how Jesus subverts the ways of the world and thought we needed to temper justice with mercy. We found it difficult not to worry in today's world and hope to remember Jesus being a non-anxious presence in times of stress. We considered that God giving up power to be incarnate was the heart of the Gospel and Jesus is empowering us to give up power.

The next session will be held after church on March 2nd, with Frances Arthur, our facilitator, to draw together our discussions. Please come along (soup provided, bring a roll with you!) A display will be taken to the diocesan conference in Oban in March this year, to share some of our reflections. Contact Andrew (702444) or Val (702739) for more information!

## Events news

Holy Trinity's worshipping life is healthily mixed with social events, planned and run by the 'Events Team.' New members of the team are sought for 2014: no experience required! Please contact Mary Swift or Pauline Revill (704731) for details.

Events already planned for 2014 are:

30th March—**8+1 & Friends in Concert** (see advert below)

**Bag packs** for Christian Aid (16th May, 10am-4pm) and for Holy Trinity fabric

**Quiz night** (with the Rector!)

**Coffee Morning**

Talk on the Dunoon Stitchers' participation in '**Scotland's Tapestry**' with Maureen McKellar

**Heritage Open Day** in Holy Trinity with Restoration Project presentation and refreshments

...and more!

### **"Music for The Journey"**

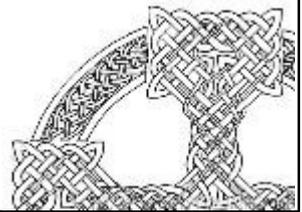
***"8+1" & "The Grazioso Quartet" with Lynda Norris.***

Sunday 30th March at 7.30pm, Holy Trinity Church

Tickets £7 (including refreshments)

available from Christine McIntosh / Mary Swift or at the door.

8+1 will be singing music by Pergolesi, Schubert and Byrd, as well as some folk song arrangements. The Grazioso Quartet will play Beethoven and Joaquin Turina, and accompanying 8+1 in the Pergolesi and the finale.



# Mission Report

This year the diocese has been exploring 'Mission Possible' in all of our charges—but what is our mission, here in Dunoon?

We are called to proclaim a gospel of God's love in our worship and in our lives. As a church, as well as our worshipping life (and restoring our building) we have been involved in a range of practical outreach activities, e.g.:



**Experience Christmas & Easter—**we have initiated and run events in Dunoon Grammar School for the past three years, setting up 'stations' for the S1 pupils to encounter the key stories in these

Christian festivals. We have managed to make these events ecumenical, and plan to keep them going year-on-year.



**The Haven at Cowal Gathering—**supported financially by the Church of Scotland and again run ecumenically, we have run an outreach café for two years at the local Highland Games. This has raised awareness of all the churches and raised over £2,500 for the local hospice.

**Charity Collection & Support—**we have continued to support Christian Aid, through soup lunches and bag packs, and have supported Mission to Seafarers

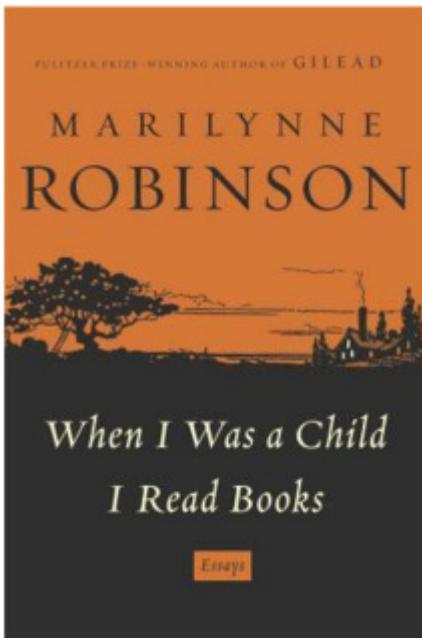
and several charity appeals for DEC and other causes. The vestry is now matching appeal collections.

**Local social projects**—the ‘Starter Packs Plus’ project continues (we collected for this at Harvest in 2012) and there are plans for a ‘Foodbank-type’ project and also a credit union for the Cowal area. We have representatives working on all these projects, and will support them with money, people

and produce as required. Watch this space for more details.

We cannot be complacent, of course, as there is always more to do and ‘mission’ can never be complete. Please feed any ideas about other possible projects or initiatives to the vestry.

...and more of the outreach and mission activities will be reported in future editions of the newsletter.



Book Group is next meeting on:

**Thurs. 6th March  
at 11am**

At The Rectory, 55 Kilbride Rd.

We will be discussing:

**When I Was A Child  
I Read Books  
by Marilynne Robinson**

**All Welcome, Please Join Us!**

More details from: Di Tennent (840779)

Holy Trinity, Scottish Episcopal Church, Dunoon Scottish Charities no.SC008066

## Vestry Update

The vestry of Holy Trinity Du-noon is responsible for the day to day running of the church, as well as being the official ‘charity trustees.’ They meet roughly six times per year to discuss a mix of finances, property issues, mission and general review of where the church community is going, spiritually and practically. The vestry met in January 2014, with discussions including:

Charitable Giving—the vestry voted to match pound-for-pound any special congregational collections from church funds. This means an immediate donation has been made towards DEC Syria and Philippines Appeals.

Restoration Project—the snags and finishing of the project were discussed. Payment of the completion retention (2.5% of the total contract value) will be withheld until the roof and



lighting snags are resolved. Other property matters—the upgraded heating system (approved by the diocese) was confirmed for fitting. Other areas to be addressed were: kneeler board fixing, a new aumbry lamp and clips for the processional cross.

The vestry had a good debate on mission and priorities for the charge, including foodbank support and other possible actions.

The vestry also discussed communications, including pew & news sheets, concluding that a return to the old system of weekly pewsheets and a magazine/newsletter was preferred.

For more information, contact Liz McFarlane, vestry secretary on [justlizg@gmail.com](mailto:justlizg@gmail.com).

## Treasury team report

The finances of the church are an important part of the community life. In the past year they have been dominated by the Heritage Lottery/Historic Scotland funded restoration project, but the underlying finances of the church are still very important as we have to try and 'pay our way' as a charity and as a charge in the Scottish Episcopal Church.

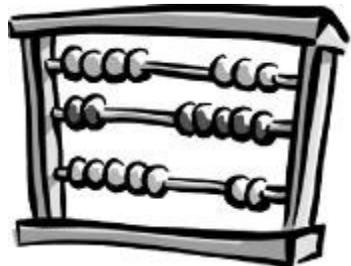
The church finances are closely monitored by the vestry. Each year we aim to achieve a 'break-even' budget, and each year we have a target to reduce the grant that we receive from the General Synod Office in Edinburgh for stipendiary ministry. In 2014, we, along with St Paul's Rothesay, are receiving 25% of the rector's stipend as a grant. Next year the target is approximately 10%, the following year zero.

It will cost us nearly £37,000 this year to pay for the rector and all the costs of the church. Last

year's income was nearly £35,000, so the vestry is confident that we will, with careful planning and your generous support, meet this target.

The fact that we are on target to achieve zero stipend support in the timescale agreed at Andrew's appointment in 2010 is a remarkable achievement. To have managed to carry out the fundraising to support the restoration project is an even greater achievement. A heartfelt thanks is due to all who have worked so hard and been so generous to support the church in this way.

We will be writing soon to ask, once again, for all to review and consider their giving to church: please prayerfully consider this.



# Fabric & Property Update

It has been a very busy few months for fabric and property matters, as the massive restoration project has come to an end. A reminder of the large range of work that has been done can be found in the photographic record on the website:

[www.holytrinitydunoon.co.uk/restoration-project-2013/](http://www.holytrinitydunoon.co.uk/restoration-project-2013/)

The project has renewed the entire floor, the edges of all the roofs, much of the leadwork, all of the wiring and lighting, extensive areas of repointing, stone repair and external drainage as well as internal redecoration. We have also upgraded the heating system in the church, now possible with the upgraded wiring.

There are still some snags to be sorted: some of the reslating requires to be redone, the lighting requires some changes and some other leaks in new

and old leadwork will need to be addressed. Some of this will be done by the contractor as part of the project guaranteed defect period, some of this is outside the project scope and will be done as ongoing work.

The end result of all the fundraising, displacement of the church community and hard work for all is a transformed church building for our worship and community life.

Work will continue, of course. The Sunday School room in the base of the tower requires water-proofing, detailed planning for a toilet extension is now going to start, and the usual business of grounds maintenance and development continues.

The building is a home to a living community: this effort is well worthwhile to keep this home fit for the worship of God!

# Lent 2014

**Ash Wednesday:** Eucharist with ashing at 12.30pm—please note the daytime service this year.

**Lent course 2014**, 10.30am on the following Thursdays in Lent, in the Rectory: 13/3; 27/3; 3/4; 17/4.

We will be following Ian Adams' 'Reflections for Lent 2014', a selection of passages from scripture and reflections on those passages.

Each session aims to be a prayerful space to pause and reflect on where God is leading

## Contact details:

Rector: Dean Andrew Swift, 01369 702444

[rev.andrew@familyswift.org.uk](mailto:rev.andrew@familyswift.org.uk)

Vestry secretary: Liz McFarlane [justliz@gmail.com](mailto:justliz@gmail.com)

Rector's warden: Val Taylor [valeet98@aol.com](mailto:valeet98@aol.com)

Treasurer: Maureen McKellar [mpmckellar@btinternet.com](mailto:mpmckellar@btinternet.com)

People's Warden & Protection of Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator:

Dinkie McEwen, 01369 705257, [mdinamack@aol.com](mailto:mdinamack@aol.com)



us this season, this year. We will pick and share several of each week's reflections.

Come to one or all sessions, and feel free to buy the book (Kindle or hard copy) and use it as a daily reflection aid.

Holy Week & Easter worship leaflets will be available soon.

Contact Andrew (702444) for more details.

## Dates for your diary...

February:

**25th Feb**—7.30pm—Worship Music with Chris Goan—Holy Trinity

**27th Feb**—10.30am—Bible Study in the Rectory

March:

**2nd March**—after church—"Mission Possible" with Frances Arthur  
(soup lunch provided: bring a sandwich)

**3rd March**—9.30am—Vestry meeting at the Rectory

**5th March**—12.30pm—Ash Wednesday Eucharist with ashing

**6th March**—11am—Book Group at the Rectory

**7th March**—2pm, St John's—World Day of Prayer

**10th & 11th March**—Diocesan conference and Synod in Oban.  
Contact Andrew if you are interested in attending.

**23rd March**—4pm—Celebration Service with the High Kirk at HT—  
followed by Tea & Cake

**29th March**—10am to 3pm—Vestry Training Day at Rectory

**30th March**—10.30am—Baptisms in the Mothering Sunday Service  
7.30pm—Concert in HT—'Music for the Journey' (see advert)

April:

(see leaflet for all Holy Week & Easter Services)

**15th April**—7pm—Holy Week Ecumenical Evensong in HT

**19th April**—Walk of Witness on Argyll Street

**20th April**—Easter Day

**29th April**—'Experience Easter' in Dunoon Grammar School

**Lent Course** dates, Thursdays: 13/3; 27/3; 3/4; 17/4

In the Rectory at 10.30am. See article for details